What is claimed is:

1.A service allocating device in a network where at least
one first device which responds to a network service
5 request and at least one second device which does not
respond to the network service request and a setting
which can be modified from outside are connected,
comprising:
    a unit obtaining information about a network
10 service provided by the first device;
    a unit specifying the second device which does not
respond to the network service; and
    a unit converting a setting content of the network
service received by the first device and requested for
15 the first device, to a setting content to which the
second device can respond, and setting the setting
content obtained by the conversion in the second device;
which
    performs control of the setting content of the
20 second device that does not correspond to the network
service by the first device, according to the network
service request received by the first device.

2.The service allocating device according to claim 1,
25 further comprising:

a service setting storing unit storing setting contents of the first and second devices, which respond to previous network services; and

a service competition calculating unit checking
5   a competition relation between network service requests from a plurality of users based on information stored in the service setting storing section, adjusting the competition relation, and determining the setting contents of the first and second devices so as to respond
10 to the network service to be provided.

3. The service allocating device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a priority route selecting unit selecting a device
15 for providing a higher function of a requested network service, of the first and second devices which are connected to the network, and determining a communications route through which the selected devices are connected; and
20   a route comparison unit comparing a communications route used prior to a new network service request with a communications route determined by the priority route selecting unit.

25 4.The service allocating device according to claim 3,

further comprising

     a route setting generating unit determining a communications route suitable for provision of the new network service based on a comparison result obtained

5   by the route comparison section,

which

     performs control so that the new network service can be provided, using a communications route determined by the route setting generating unit.

10

5. The service allocating device according to claim 2, further comprising:

     a service stoppage request generating unit obtaining information about a network service provision

15   state of the first device, detecting provision stoppage of a network service by the first device based on the network service provision state information, and generating a service stoppage request;

     a service setting storing unit storing a plurality

20   of setting information of the first and second devices, which correspond to a network service that existed before provision stoppage of the network service is detected; and

     a service competition calculating unit

25   calculating a service competition relation that is

modified by the detected provision stoppage of the network service according to both the service stoppage request and storage information of the service setting storing section.

5

6. A service allocating method in a network where at least one first device which responds to a network service request and at least one second device which does not respond to the network service request and a setting

10 of which can be modified from outside are connected, comprising:

(a) obtaining information about a network service provided by the first device;

(b) specifying the second device which does not

15 respond to the network service; and

(c) converting a setting content of the network service received by the first device and requested for the first device, to a setting content to which the second device can respond; and

20 (d) setting a setting content obtained by the conversion in the second device;

which

performs control of the setting content of the second device that does not correspond to the network

25 service by the first device, according to the network

service request received by the first device.

7. The service allocating method according to claim 6, further comprising:

5   (e) storing setting contents of the first and second devices, which respond to previous network services; and

           (f) checking a competition relation between network service requests from a plurality of users based
10   on storage information in step (e), adjusting the competition relation and determining the setting contents of the first and second devices so as to respond to a network service to be provided.

15   8. The service allocating method according to claim 6, further comprising:

           (g) selecting a device for providing a higher function of a requested network service, of the first and second devices which are connected to the network,
20   and determining a communications route through which the selected devices are connected; and

           (h) comparing a communications route used prior to a new network service request with a communications route determined by the priority route selecting
25   section.

9. The service allocating method according to claim 8, further comprising:

(i) determining a communications route suitable for provision of the new network service based on a comparison result obtained by the route comparing section,

which

performs control so that the new network service can be provided, using a communications route determined in step (i).

10. The service allocating method according to claim 7, further comprising:

(j) obtaining information about a network service provision state of the first device, detecting provision stoppage of a network service by the first device based on the network service provision state information and generating a service stoppage request;

(k) storing a plurality of setting information of the first and second devices, which correspond to a network service existed that before provision stoppage of the network service is detected; and

(l) calculating a service competition relation that is modified by the detected provision stoppage of

the network service according to both the service stoppage request and the information stored in step (e).

11. A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for enabling a computer to execute a service allocating process in a network where at least one first device which responds to a network service request and at least one second device which does not respond to the network service request and the setting of which can be modified from outside are connected, the process comprising:

(a) obtaining information about a network service provided by the first device;

(b) specifying the second device which does not respond to the network service; and

(c) converting a setting content of the network service received by the first device and requested for the first device to a setting content to which the second device can respond; and

(d) setting a setting content obtained by the conversion in the second device;
which

performs control of the setting content of the second device that does not correspond to the network service by the first device, according to the network

service request received by the first device.

12. The storage medium according to claim 11, the process further comprising:

5   (e) storing setting contents of the first and second devices, which respond to previous network services; and

(f) checking a competition relation between network service requests from a plurality of users based

10 on information stored in step (e), adjusting the competition relation, and determining the setting contents of the first and second devices so as to respond to a network service to be provided.

15 13. The storage medium according to claim 11, the process further comprising:

(g) selecting a device for providing a higher function of a requested network service, of the first and second devices which are connected to the network,

20 and determining a communications route through which the selected devices are connected; and

(h) comparing a communications route used prior to a new network service request with a communications route determined by the priority route selecting

25 section.

14. The storage medium according to claim 13, the process further comprising:

    (i) determining a communications route suitable
5 for provision of the new network service based on a comparison result obtained by the route comparing section,

which

    performs control so that the new network service
10 can be provided, using a communications route determined in step (i).

15. The storage medium according to claim 12, the process further comprising:

15   (j) obtaining information about a network service provision state of the first device, detecting provision stoppage of a network service by the first device based on the network service provision state information, and generating a service stoppage request;

20   (k) storing a plurality of setting information of the first and second devices, which correspond to a network service before provision stoppage of the network service is detected; and

    (l) calculating a service competition relation
25 that is modified by the detected provision stoppage of

the network service, according to both the service stoppage request and the information stored in step (e).